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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,336	01/22/2004	Yoshikazu Hirayama	566.43417X00	2683
20457 7590 07/27/2007 ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873			EXAMINER SHAH, PARAS D	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 07/27/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,336

Applicant(s)

HIRAYAMA, YOSHIKAZU

Examiner

Paras Shah

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/22/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the Application filed on 01/22/2004. Claims 1-6 are pending and have been examined.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/22/2004 was filed and is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota *et al.* (US 6,012,028) in view of Lin *et al.* (US 6,076,060) in view of Chihara (US 6,625,575).

As to claims 1 and 2, Kubota *et al.* discloses: a voice output unit, which converts a text-based document into a voice and outputs the voice, comprising,

a voice signal synthesizer (see Figure 1, element 6) for generating a voice signal from said text-based document (see Figure 1, element 3 and see col. 4, lines 37-39) (e.g. The use of a storage implies the retrieval of text from a document.),

an output means, which outputs as a voice said voice signal generated in said voice signal synthesizer (see Figure 1, element 6 and col. 3, lines 25-27 and col. 5, lines 40-41),

and a synthesizing controller for allowing said voice signal synthesizer to generate said voice signal in which a tone quality including at least intonation is changed (see col. 6, lines 24-30) (e.g. From the above cited sections, it is evident that prosody is used to generate the phonetic signals for output. The term prosody includes intonation and speed).

However, Kubota *et al.* does not specifically disclose the grasping means, which grasps contents or a length of said text-based document and changing intonation as a result of the length of the text.

Lin *et al.* discloses the grasping of the length of a text-based document (see col. 3, lines 57-62 and col. 4, lines 1-3) (e.g. The length of the text is determined and then processed based on the length).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the text to speech system of Kubota *et*

a/. with the inclusion of determining the length of the text for further processing (setting intonation) taught by Lin *et al.* The motivation to have included the determination of the length of text is to minimize processing time and improve the speed accuracy of the conversion from text to speech (see Lin *et al.*, col. 3, lines 63-col. 4, lines 3).

However, Kubota *et al.* and Lin *et al.* do not specifically disclose the changing intonation as a result of the length of the text.

Chihara does disclose the intonation being generated depending on the length of the word (see col. 9, lines 25-31 and col. 14, lines 34-37) (e.g. In former citation, the length of word is computed and in the latter citation a pitch is assigned depending on length of word).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the text to speech system of Kubota *et al.* and Lin *et al.* with the inclusion of intonation control based on word length taught by Chihara. The motivation to have included an intonation control is to be close to the natural speaking voice and avoid distortion of synthesized sounds (see Chihara col. 5, lines 21-23) as would benefit the text to speech synthesizer described by Kubota *et al.* and Lin *et al.*

6. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota *et al.* (US 6,012,028) in view of Lin *et al.* (US 6,076,060) in view of Chihara (US 6,625,575) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Russell (US 6,505,121).

As to claim 3, Kubota *et al.*, Lin *et al.*, and Chihara do not specifically disclose the situation consisting of a road guidance to be outputted.

Russell discloses the guiding of the individual of a route on a map (see col. 3, lines 6-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the text to speech synthesizer as taught by Kubota *et al.*, Lin *et al.*, and Chihara and included map guidance for an individual as taught by Russell. The motivation to have included the map guidance involves the ability for the driver to get to the desired destination (see Russell, col. 3, lines 6-10) as would benefit the teachings of Kubota *et al.* through use of the text to speech system, which is applied to a car navigation system (see Kubota *et al.*, col. 2, lines 41-46).

As to claim 4, Kubota *et al.*, Lin *et al.*, Chihara, and Russell disclose further

a VICS (Vehicle Information and Communication System) information receiver for receiving VICS information, wherein, said grasping means further grasps a situation in which said VICS information is to be outputted (see Kubota *et al.*, col. 6, lines 60-63 and col. 7, lines 5-6) (e.g. It is implied that the system uses VICS in order to receive traffic information and output the information to the driver).

As to claims 5 and 6, Kubota *et al.*, Lin *et al.*, Chihara, and Russell disclose further comprising

a network information receiver for receiving network information (see col. 3, lines 17-21) (e.g. The cited portion indicates the use of the internet via the Internet for accessing email. The cellular unit is used and interfaced with the navigation system and considered part of navigation (see Russell, Figure 1, elements 18, 16, and 26 and col. 2, lines 14-25) (e.g. Description of navigation system components)), wherein, said grasping means further grasps a situation in which said network information is to be outputted (see Russell, col. 3, lines 20-21) (e.g. The output is in the form of speech since in audible format.)

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Correia *et al.* is cited to disclose vehicle navigation instructions. Freeland *et al.* (US 2003/0028380) is cited to disclose an audio message generation over a communications network. Yazu (US 2003/0171923) is cited to disclose a voice synthesis apparatus for processing text.

The foreign patent publication by Nagai (JP 08-247779) is cited to disclose a voice outputting for vehicle navigation by emphasizing different intonations using a dictionary.

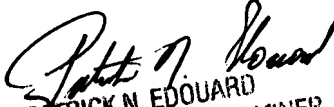
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paras Shah whose telephone number is (571)270-1650. The examiner can normally be reached on MON.-THURS. 7:30a.m.-4:00p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571)272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

P.S.

07/18/2007


PATRICK N. EDOUARD
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